



# THE CITY OF WHITTIER

*Gateway to Western Prince William Sound*

P.O. Box 608 • Whittier, Alaska 99693 • (907) 472-2327 • Fax (907) 472-2404

**PORT & HARBOR COMMISSION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
Wednesday, October 8, 2014  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, P-12 BUILDING  
6:00 pm**

**MINUTES**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Monty Irvin called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

**OPENING CEREMONY**

Monty Irvin led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Ed Hedges	Seat A	P
Peter Denmark	Seat B	P- (Peter arrived shortly after the meeting began.)
Brad Von Wichman	Seat C	P
Monty Irvin	Seat D	P
Larry Gilman	Seat E	A
Arnie Arneson	Seat F	P
Matt Kopec	Seat G	A

**MOTION:** Arnie Arneson made a motion to excuse Peter Denmark, Matt Kopec and Larry Gilman from tonight's meeting.

**SECOND:** Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

**DISCUSSION:** None

## **ADMINISTRATION PRESENT**

Michelle Weston, Interim Harbormaster  
Jennifer Rogers, Deputy City Clerk

## **PUBLIC CITIZENS PRESENT**

Charlene Arneson  
Dan Blair  
David Goldstein  
Duane Hill  
David Pinguoch  
Jean Swingle

## **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**MOTION:** Ed Hedges made a motion to approve the Special Meeting Agenda of October 8, 2014.

**SECOND:** Arnie Arneson seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

**DISCUSSION:** None

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Brad Von Wichman made a motion to approve the Port & Harbor Regular Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2014 as is.

**SECOND:** Arnie Arneson seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**

### **A. Harbormaster Report**

Michelle Weston reported on the following topics:

#### **Harbormaster Priorities October 2014**

- Correct immediate safety issues.  
Michelle conducted a safety check. She has a ten page report of things that need to be fixed immediately; correcting those items are ongoing.
- Preparing for winter operations. Replace broken bull-rails, store equipment, remove nuisance vessels from the harbor, adjust slip assignments for safety and remove obsolete equipment from office and storerooms.
- Aggressively reduce the number of overdue aged accounts and pursue impoundment and maritime liens when necessary.
- Terminate contracts with customers who are in long-term violation of harbor policies and re-assign slips to waiting list customers.

## SERVS

Alyeska Pipeline spent the day on September 30<sup>th</sup> reorganizing the Whittier SERVS files. Training on HELM database was provided on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Jean Swingle will be the main Tier 1 and 2 contact and Terry Bender is the Tier 3 contact. New PPE tote supplies have been ordered. A Tier 1 exercise will occur at the end of each month. Tier 1 is closed to new applicants. SERVS is looking for seiners for Whittier.

## SUMMARY

- There are a large number of accounts past 90 days due with over \$2,500 owed and not all 2014 agreements are in the files; aggressive bill collection efforts are ongoing.
- The policy of boats moving under their own power has not been enforced in the past which means we have vessels that require pump-outs in winter.
- 3 Waiting list offers have been made.
- 3 Floats have been deemed unsafe for winter tie-ups.
- 3 Electric pedestals need to be replaced. Costs are estimated around \$2,000 each.
- Marine lift mechanic is on order to service the travel lift.
- City dock needs structural support. New ladders are also needed.
- Ocean dock dolphin walkway has not been repaired; a claim is being pursued through AML/JIA.
- Many safety issues are being addressed.
- An earthquake/tsunami exercise is scheduled on October 16<sup>th</sup> for staff.

## **B. City Manager's Report**

None

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

None

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **A. Appointment of PSWAC Representative**

Monty Irvin reported that the City Council had appointed Larry Gilman as Whittier's representative.

### **B. Development of Goals and Strategy for PWSAC**

Peter Denmark stated that Larry Gilman wanted to know to what degree he should present himself as Whittier's representative. Peter Denmark suggested that we request a copy of the PWSAC charter. Dave Pinguoch gave a brief history of the relationship Whittier has with PWSAC.

He reported that he and Dave Goldstein procured \$3,000 in donations and purchased a new net, pan and a top net. He reported that in PWSAC's charter it states that they're required to provide sport fish.

### C. Harbor Moorage Rates

Arnie Arneson gave a report regarding past moorage rates. Rate lists from various harbors were handed out by Michelle Weston. Seward has the closest rates to Whittier. Arnie suggested that the harbor rates should be comparable to the harbor conditions. Peter Denmark suggested that the rates increase until all the slips are filled.

Peter Denmark suggested that we recommend to the Council to reduce the winter rates, whether this winter or next winter, to create more demand for the harbor during the winter months. Michelle Weston stated that rates should not be raised until the floats are replaced and the electricity issues are resolved. She also suggested that the Whittier transient moorage rates should be removed and the kilowatt billings aren't accurate.

She reported that we're losing money on the electricity charge by at least ten cents. The kilowatt rates, which is currently at nine cents, have not been raised in years. Peter Denmark asked if the new floats will have meters. Michelle replied that yes, they will. She is hoping that they will be metered with RF, which will make it possible for the staff to get a read in the office. Peter Denmark added that the rates for next year will need to be set before the end of the year.

**MOTION:** Arnie Arneson made a motion to direct the harbormaster to find out more information on the electricity to make it revenue neutral.

**SECOND:** Brad Von Wichman seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

### D. Boat Lift

The City is in need of a bigger boat lift. A new and city dock is needed to accommodate the boat lift. Peter Denmark stated that instead of repairing the city dock and boat lift, we should consider looking into building a new dock and purchasing a new boat lift.

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to develop a capital improvement plan for the repair and replacement of the boat lift and the city dock.

**SECOND:** Arnie Arneson seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

### E. Dock Repairs

Michelle Weston stated that the dock is in need of immediate repairs. It needs to be braced underneath, especially if concrete floats will be put in, but a redesign needs to be considered. The ladder on the dock also needs to be replaced. Michelle will get some price quotes for the repairs.

**MOTION:** Ed Hedges made a motion to direct the harbormaster to find out what the harbor is being charged for electricity so that it can become revenue neutral.

**SECOND:** Brad Von Wichman seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

### F. Condition of Backup Generator

Arnie Arneson stated that he mentioned to Scott Korbe in a conversation the day before that there were two generators in the tank farm building. The generators are 150-200 kw and the one at the harbor is 90 kw, which is marginal, according to Scott. He asked Scott what happened to the generators. Scott replied that one of the generators is in the harbor shop.

Monty asked Michelle if she was is aware of generator. She replied that she knew of one, but not the spare one. She added that she is aware that when the floats are redesigned, an electrical engineer will have to be contracted to redesign because of the power is in two different locations.

#### G. Electrical Grid

Included in the Harbormaster's report.

#### H. Disposal of Old Floats and Fingers

Peter Denmark stated that according to Dave Pinguoch, a hatchery might be interested in obtaining the old fingers and floats, which is a good way to recycle them into some other use. If we were to dispose of them and transport them through the tunnel, it would cost approximately \$200,000. If the hatcheries aren't interested in obtaining them, Peter suggested that we bury them at the head of the bay since they're not toxic or hazardous.

Michelle Weston suggested that we store them in the Buckner building until they can be disposed of. She added they we'll use a few of the pieces to fix the existing floats that aren't being replaced right away.

#### I. Harbor Parking

Jean Swingle gave a presentation to the Commission members on the work she presented to the Whittier Chamber of Commerce. She received permission to place an advertisement in the 2015 Whittier brochure. She created a brochure which included parking locations. She reported that people are confused as to where to obtain parking permits.

There was much discussion regarding parking violators and those who do not pay to use the launch ramp. There was additional discussion on ways to enforce the parking permits and launch permits by the harbor staff and Whittier Police.

Charlene Arneson asked for a status update on the bathrooms modules that were supposed to have been ordered for the harbor. Cruise ship funds were supposed to be used for the bathrooms. The new bathrooms were supposed to have drinking fountains. She was told by a previous city manager that the bathrooms were already ordered.

The new bathrooms were supposed to replace the current ones. Charlene went on to say that they were supposed to be installed this past summer. Ed Hedges added that the Planning & Zoning Commission members were told that these restrooms were ordered.

### **CITIZENS COMMENTS**

Charlene Arneson gave a brief history of the boat lift, crane and travel lift. The boat lift and crane are supposed to be inspected once a year. She added that she had a book which kept records of the travel lift maintenance. Michelle Weston stated that she found the maintenance book.

Charlene requested that transient moorage be brought back. She believes that there are people who would pay the same moorage as an annual rather than a monthly fee.

### **COMMISSION COMMENTS**

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to Resolve to increase staffing hours in the summer season to match with the tunnel opening and closing times and to ask the Council to research the digification of money handling.

**SECOND:** Arnie Arneson seconded the motion.

**VOTE:** The vote passed by unanimous decision.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

**NEXT MEETING ATTENDANCE PLANS:** November 5, 2014

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION:** Peter Denmark made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

**SECOND:** Ed Hedges seconded the motion.

Ed Hedges Y Peter Denmark Y Brad VonWichman Y Monty Irvin Y Larry Gilman O Arnie Arneson Y Matt Kopec O

**VOTE:** The vote passed unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jennifer Rogers  
Deputy City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Monty Irvin  
Chair